## Clearinghouse extends lifelines to needy

Whether it's finding boots for the kids, paying a past-due utility bill or adding an elderly couple evicted from their apartment, Neighborhood

"We're a very vital part of our community," Neighborhood House executive director Cheryl Carter told the Farmington/Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce board





budget goes toward administrative costs, said Carter, the only salaried employee. She won't guarantee immediate results, but Carter says Neighborhood House is building a steady record of extending lifelines to the needy. We tap into as many resources as possible, "she said. Among the clearinghouse's biggest boosters are the Farmington Area Goodfellows, Farmington Public Schools, the Salvation Army, local churches and area shelters.

Neighborhood House operates

Carter has two regular volunteers.
More will be sought this fall to help
distribute food, clothing and gifts
and to answer the phone during the
holiday season.
"Everybody should come here to

## New vet on board

Dr. Christine O'Rourke will be

Dr. Christine O'Rourke will become an associated at The Plaza veterinary Hospital in Farmington. She is replacing Dr. Karen Kuhi who left private practice to accept a residency in Veterinary Dermatology at the University, or C. O'Rourke Clarkston High School in Clarkston, Michigan in 1982. She attended Michigan State University, majoring in physiology until being accepted in the College of Veterinary Medicine at Michigan State University in 1985. As a veterinary student, O'Rourke was student chapter preadent of the Association for Women Veterinaria, a student member of the American Veterinary Medicial Association of Avian Veterinarians. She has held a special interest in

and of the Association for Avian Vet-crinarians.

She has held a special interest in working with avian species and other exotic pets. O'Rourke was also active in organizing a visiting pet program for the elderly.

program for the elderly.

She received her degree in veterinary medicine from Michigan State
University in June.

O'Rourke lives in Plymouth.



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Make no mistake about it, Carter said, not everyone who calls Farm-ington or Farmington Hills home lives in a \$200,000 house.

Since last June, Neighborhood House has assisted 750 individuals. Reasons vary: layoff, fire, unem-ployment, separation.

"Do they give up food, rent or util-

ities? Of all things people usually give up on when in a blind is insur-ance," Carter said. "They think noth-ing will happen and think they can pick it up when they're back on their feet. Then something does happen and they're wiped out."

CARTER ADDRESSED the cham-ber in hopes of rallying business sup-port for the 1-year-old coordinating agency. "I'm here to let you know we're here," she said. "We turn down

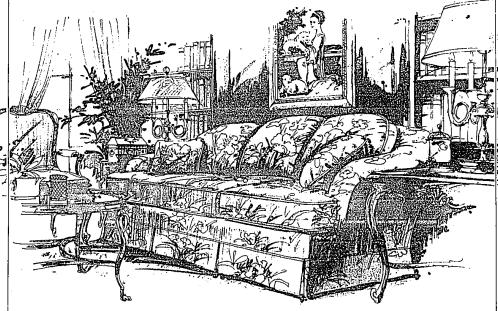
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